



ARIZONA CROPS

September 1999

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UNITED STATES COTTON PRODUCTION UP 26 PERCENT FROM 1998

All cotton production is forecast at 17.5 million 480-pound bales, down 4 percent from last month, but up 26 percent from 1998. If realized, this would be the eighth largest cotton crop on record. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 621 pounds per harvested acre, down 28 pounds from last month. Condition of the cotton crop has deteriorated since last month in most of the cotton-producing States. Dry soils and above normal temperatures have stressed dryland cotton. Harvested acreage, at 13.6 million acres, reflects an increase of 30,000 acres in Louisiana from last month.

Texas cotton has experienced above normal temperatures, promoting rapid development. For the week ending August 29, 29 percent of the cotton acreage was showing open bolls. This compares to 26 percent for the 5-year average. However, these high temperatures have resulted in some boll drop, especially in dryland areas. During the month of August, Texas cotton has shown a slight decline in overall condition. On August 29, 37 percent of the acreage was rated as good to excellent which compares to 45 percent on August 1. Harvest continues in the Coastal Bend and Upper Coast. The Rio Grande Valley had harvested almost all of their cotton prior to Hurricane Bret. The Objective Yield survey data indicates Texas' fruit counts rank ninth in the last ten years. Oklahoma's production is unchanged from last month. The overall condition of their cotton crop has improved, but some dryland cotton is exhibiting signs of drought stress.

The Delta States (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee) experienced a slight decline in the condition of their cotton during the month of August. Dry conditions continue to affect the region and reduce the potential yield. Arkansas rated 59 percent of their acreage as good to excellent, 11 percent lower than on August 1. Mississippi showed very similar results, rating 58 percent of the cotton as good to excellent, also 11 percent below last month's rating. Missouri and Louisiana rated 38 and 32 percent, respectively, in the good to excellent categories. For Missouri, this was 1 percent lower than last month, but Louisiana's rating was down 38 percent. Tennessee rated only 20 percent of their cotton acreage as good to excellent, a 28 percent decrease from August 1. While the condition deteriorated, warm weather has resulted in accelerated maturity of the crop and the shedding of some small bolls. Boll opening was ahead of average in all of the Delta States. On August 29, Arkansas was 42 percent open, 20 points ahead of the 5-year average. Louisiana had bolls open on 63 percent of the acreage, compared to 54 percent on average. Mississippi had 80 percent of their acreage showing open bolls, 31 percent ahead of average. Cotton Objective Yield data show Arkansas' count of large boll count as the ninth lowest in the last ten years. Mississippi's large boll count ranks seventh for the same time period. Louisiana's total fruit count ranks ninth since 1990.

Unusually cool weather persisted in California and Arizona early in August, resulting in slow development of the cotton crop. By

mid-to-late August, beneficial warmth promoted development, but fields with open bolls continued to lag behind the 5-year average. California reported only 5 percent of their cotton acreage having open bolls on August 29, 23 percent behind normal. Arizona showed a similar results, with only 39 percent of the acreage having open bolls. This compares to 66 percent on average. Despite the delay, there is not widespread concern about the crop growing to maturity. At the end of August, California's cotton continues to be rated 90 percent good to excellent. Arizona rated 45 percent in these categories and an additional 45 percent as fair. Data from the Objective Yield plots indicate the number of small bolls in California ranks second in the past ten years, while their large boll counts rank sixth during this time period.

In the Southeastern States (Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina), the cotton crop condition declined due to hot and dry weather throughout most of the month. In late August, rains from Hurricane Dennis improved soil moisture conditions in isolated areas, but some fields were too mature to benefit from the moisture. Northern Alabama and the Carolinas did receive scattered showers during the middle of the month, but additional rain was still needed. All four of the States showed a decline in cotton condition during the month of August. South Carolina and Georgia each rated only 24 percent of their crop in the good to excellent categories. There were declines of 38 and 35 points, respectively, from August 1. Georgia rated 33 percent good to excellent, a 19 percent decrease from August 1. North Carolina showed the least decline, rating 57 percent of their cotton good to excellent, 14 points below last month. As was the case in the Delta States, the warm, sunny weather has promoted rapid advancement of this year's crop. After a slow start, cotton development has now caught up or exceeded the 5-year average. As of August 29, Alabama reported 32 percent of the cotton acreage having open bolls, 10 percent above the 5-year average. North Carolina had 25 percent of its acreage with open bolls, 7 percent ahead of average. Georgia is 5 percent ahead of normal with 36 percent of the acreage having open bolls and South Carolina is on average with 17 percent of the cotton acres with open bolls. A small volume of cotton was reportedly harvested in Georgia. Harvesting is not expected to become widespread until later in September.

American-Pima production is forecast at 688,500 bales, up 56 percent from last year's output, and up 20,900 bales from August. The U.S. yield is forecast at 1,045 pounds per harvested acre, up 141 pounds from last year. California's production is up 20,000 bales from the August forecast, while Arizona's production is increased 900 bales. Although cool temperatures have slowed development, the crop continues to be have good potential in both of these States. New Mexico and Texas production remained unchanged.

Ginnings totaled 561,000 running bales prior to September 1, compared with 523,000 running bales ginned prior to the same date last year and 358,700 running bales in 1998.

COTTON: AREA HARVESTED, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

Type and State	Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production 1/	
	1998	1999	1998	1999		1998	1999
				August 1	Forecasted September 1		
	1,000 Acres			Pounds		1,000 Bales 2/	
<u>Upland</u>							
AL	475.0	560.0	559	711	583	553.0	680.0
AZ	248.0	239.0	1,177	1,115	1,155	608.0	575.0
AR	900.0	930.0	645	743	697	1,209.0	1,350.0
CA	620.0	585.0	887	1,067	1,190	1,146.0	1,450.0
FL 3/	80.0	88.0	489	524	524	81.5	96.0
GA	1,280.0	1,450.0	578	629	596	1,542.0	1,800.0
KS 3/	16.5	28.0	404	411	411	13.9	24.0
LA	525.0	595.0	586	697	686	641.0	850.0
MS	940.0	1,180.0	737	773	716	1,444.0	1,760.0
MO	357.0	445.0	471	593	561	350.0	520.0
NM 3/	60.3	67.0	640	716	716	80.4	100.0
NC	705.0	870.0	699	687	687	1,026.0	1,245.0
OK	120.0	190.0	560	531	531	140.0	210.0
SC	286.0	315.0	587	686	549	350.0	360.0
TN	445.0	595.0	589	589	516	546.0	640.0
TX	3,300.0	5,000.0	524	509	480	3,600.0	5,000.0
VA 3/	91.0	109.0	765	819	819	145.1	186.0
US		13,246.0	619	641	610	13,475.9	16,846.0
<u>Amer-Pima</u>							
AZ	15.5	11.2	830	776	814	26.8	19.0
CA	180.0	259.0	941	1,075	1,112	352.8	600.0
NM	7.3	7.0	658	651	651	10.0	9.5
TX	32.0	39.0	791	738	738	52.7	60.0
US	234.8	316.2	904	1,013	1,045	442.3	688.5

1/ Production ginned and to be ginned.

2/ 480-Lb. Net weight bales.

3/ Estimates for current year carried forward from previous forecast.

AREA HARVESTED, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION, ARIZONA AND UNITED STATES

Crop	Unit	ARIZONA			UNITED STATES		
		1998	Forecasted September 1, 1999	1999 as % of 1998	1998	Forecasted September 1, 1999	1999 as % of 1998
Durum Wheat 1/							
Harvested	Thou acres	144	75	52	3,728	3,898	105
Yield per acre	Pounds	6,300	5,700		2,268	1,698	
Production	Thou tons	454	214	47	4,232	3,111	78
Winter Wheat 1/ 2/							
Harvested	Thou acres	8	8	100	40,126	35,609	89
Yield per acre	Pounds	5,400	5,460		2,814	2,844	
Production	Thou tons	22	22	100	56,418	50,657	90
Spring Wheat 1/							
Harvested	Thou acres				15,148	14,960	99
Yield per acre	Pounds				2,094	2,034	
Production	Thou tons				15,861	15,232	96
Barley							
Harvested	Thou acres	56	62	111	5,867	4,834	82
Yield per acre	Pounds	5,280	5,472		2,885	2,808	
Production	Thou tons	148	170	115	8,459	6,782	80
Corn							
Harvested	Thou acres	30	30	100	72,604	70,955	98
Yield per acre	Pounds	9,800	10,640		7,526	7,403	
Production	Thou tons	147	160	109	273,310	262,667	96
Alfalfa Hay 1/ 3/							
Harvested	Thou acres	200	200	100	23,642	23,968	101
Yield per acre	Tons	8.00	7.80		3.47	3.47	
Production	Thou tons	1,600	1,560	98	82,010	83,160	101
Other Hay 1/ 3/							
Harvested	Thou acres	40	50	125	36,374	38,083	105
Yield per acre	Tons	3.50	3.60		1.91	2.04	
Production	Thou tons	140	180	129	69,328	77,609	112

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

2/ For Arizona, wheat other than Durum.

3/ United States estimates carried forward from previous estimate.

ALL POTATOES 1998

Final production of potatoes from all four seasons in 1998 totaled 476 million cwt, up 2 percent from a year earlier but 5 percent below 1996. Area harvested is estimated at 1.39 million acres, up 3 percent from 1997 but 3 percent below 1996. Yield, averaging 343

cwt per acre, dropped 2 cwt from a year ago and was 7 cwt lower than two year ago. In 1998, winter production dropped 13 percent, spring slipped 5 percent, summer gained 4 percent, and fall potatoes increased 2 percent from the previous year.

SPRING POTATOES: AREA HARVESTED, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION 1/

State	Area Harvested		Yield		Production	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	1,000 acres		Cwt		1,000 cwt	
AL	1.7	1.6	130	175	221	280
AZ	8.1	9.4	280	290	2,268	2,726
CA	18.5	19.5	335	365	6,198	7,118
FL -	34.5	29.0	213	261	7,358	7,560
Hastings	24.5	22.0	235	280	5,758	6,160
Other	10.0	7.0	160	200	1,600	1,400
NC	17.5	16.5	190	195	3,325	3,218
TX	10.3	9.8	170	235	1,751	2,303
TOTAL	90.6	85.8	233	270	21,121	23,205

1/ Estimate for current year carried forward from earlier forecasts.

SPRING ONIONS

The season end report of spring onions places U.S. production at 11.5 million cwt, up 11 percent from last year. Acreage harvested, at 37,800 acres, is 2 percent above a year ago, but yield at 304 cwt per acre is 23 cwt per acre above a year ago. The value of the spring crop is estimated at 197 million dollars, 5 percent less than last year.



SPRING ONIONS: AREA PLANTED AND HARVESTED, YIELD, PRODUCTION, AND VALUE

State	Area				Yield Per Acre		Production		Value			
	Planted		Harvested		1998	1999	1998	1999	Per cwt		Total	
	1998	1999	1998	1999					1998	1999	1998	1999
	Acres				Cwt		1,000 cwt		Dollars		1,000 dollars	
AZ	2,500	3,000	2,500	3,000	470	545	1,175	1,635	15.30	11.50	17,978	18,803
CA	9,400	7,500	9,100	7,300	445	438	4,050	3,197	14.10	11.30	57,105	36,126
GA	15,000	16,000	13,900	14,500	160	190	2,224	2,755	30.90	27.10	68,722	74,661
TX	12,000	13,800	11,400	13,000	255	300	2,907	3,900	21.70	17.40	63,082	67,860
TOTAL	38,900	40,300	36,900	37,800	281	304	10,356	11,487	20.00	17.20	206,887	197,450

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PRICES RECEIVED INDEX INCREASES 3 POINTS

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in August was 98 based on 1990-92=100 and mid-month August prices, up 3 points (3.2 percent) from the preliminary July index. Price increases from July for milk, hogs, wheat, and corn more than offset price decreases for broilers, potatoes, oranges, and tomatoes. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn more than offset the relatively lower marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and broilers. These marketing changes contributed less than one point to the overall increase in the index.

PRICES PAID INDEX UNCHANGED

The August Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 116 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was unchanged from July and from August 1998. Since July, lower prices for feeder cattle, nitrogen fertilizers, feeder pigs, and complete feeds were offset by higher prices for diesel fuel, gasoline, feed grains, and building materials.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS: ARIZONA AND U.S., AUGUST 1998 AND 1999 AND JULY 1999

Commodity	Unit	ARIZONA			UNITED STATES		
		August 1998 Entire Mo.	July 1999 Entire Mo.	August 1999 Mid-Mo.	August 1998 Entire Mo.	July 1999 Entire Mo.	August 1999 Mid-Mo.
Upland Cotton 1/	¢ Lb	2/	48.6	2/	66.2	54.3	53.9
All Wheat 3/	\$ Cwt				2.39	2.23	2.43
Durum Wheat 3/	\$ Cwt				3.25	2.89	2.83
Winter Wheat 3/	\$ Cwt				2.25	2.13	2.30
All Hay Baled	\$ Ton	71.00	86.00	86.00	4/ 88.50	4/ 78.40	77.40
Alfalfa Hay Baled	\$ Ton	70.00	86.00	87.00	4/ 90.50	4/ 82.00	81.50
Other Hay Baled	\$ Ton	100.00	82.00	63.00	4/ 79.00	4/ 65.30	62.80
Cows 5/	\$ Cwt	36.50	38.30	40.30	34.20	37.70	37.00
Steers and Heifers	\$ Cwt	58.60	64.10	64.30	59.70	65.20	65.60
Beef Cattle 6/	\$ Cwt	58.20	63.80	64.10	57.40	62.60	62.90
Calves	\$ Cwt	78.10	87.50	90.70	76.90	89.20	89.00
All Milk 7/	\$ Cwt	15.10	13.50	14.10	15.40	13.70	14.90

1/ Includes both spot and contract sales.

2/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

3/ Not available for Arizona.

4/ Mid-month.

5/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

6/ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

7/ Preliminary; before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

U.S. PRICE INDEX SUMMARY TABLE

Index 1990-92 = 100	1998		1999	
	July	August	July	August
Prices Received	102	101	95	98
Prices Paid	116	116	116	116
Ratio 1/	88	87	82	84

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.